### MÉDITERRANÉE AUDIOVISUELLE LETTRE D'INFORMATION MENSUELLE

# CMCA

### N°113 March 2013

Friday March 8th: International Women's Day!

Exactly the right moment for "*Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*" to launch a series of interviews with the chairs or heads of various Mediterranean television stations.

Our first guest: Imene Bahroune, Chair of Télévision Tunisienne.

The only woman at the head of an Arab television station\*, she talks to Jean-François Tealdi about the changes in her company, how the company is financed and about the new broadcasting law which will impact the future of television in Tunisia.

This series of interviews with the chairs of Mediterranean television companies is part of the build-up to a summit meeting, the first of its kind, which will bring all of them together in Marseille. The summit, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, will be hosted by *France Télévisions* and the CMCA.

*"Méditerranée Audiovisuelle"* also continues its series of portraits of Mediterranean television companies. This month: HRT, the Croatian public broadcaster.

Also in this edition, all the news about "PAM" (*the Paysage Audiovisuel Méditerranéen*, or Mediterranean broadcasting landscape), strongly marked by economic and social problems in the north as much as the south.

A situation which makes the choice of subject for the PriMed discussion on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Marseille even more pertinent: "Values, finance and the future of public service broadcasting in the Mediterranean".

Finally read the two close-ups on the One World Romania festival and on the VOD Cinemoz web-site.

Happy reading !

François Jacquel CMCA Managing Director

\* There are only two women at the head of a public Mediterranean television company: Imene Bahroune and Anna Maria Tarantola, Chair of RAI.

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#### LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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TUNISIA / Nessma TV accuses Al Jazeera of theft and manipulating images

On February 8<sup>th</sup> the Qatari news channel Al Jazeera is alleged to have used Nessma TV's images to illustrate the funeral of **Chokri Belaid,** the Tunisian politician assassinated two days earlier. That at least is what a statement issued by Nessma's board alleges.

In its February 12<sup>th</sup> statement, the channel expressed "outrage at the use of its images [...], without prior authorization, with the aim to manipulate and misinform." The channel also stated it will take "the necessary measures to protect its rights."

At the end of January Al Jazeera had already created controversy in Tunisia after the Egyptian presenter **Ahmed Mansour** made remarks deemed insulting about former Tunisian President **Habib Bourguiba**, in the programme "Shahedon Ala Al-Asr". The channel has apologized.

(Sources : Kapitalis, Business News.)



# TUNISIA / A Zitouna TV correspondent attacked in Nabeul

**Nabil Hajri**, correspondent for the Tunisian Islamic channel Zitouna TV, was attacked with a knife on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Nabeul (north-east Tunisia). A group unknown to him hit him several times with a sword and stole his equipment.

One of the attackers was later arrested in possession of the weapon. Nabil Hajri was taken to hospital in a "critical condition", according to the channel's management.

Zitouna TV was launched in May 2012 by **Sami Essid** and **Osama Ben Salem**, son of the Higher Education Minister, **Moncef Ben Salem**, a key figure in the Ennahda party. The channel has recently acquired a new headquarters in an industrial area of Tunis, Charguia, but broadcasts illegally from Bahrain by satellite.

(Sources : Libération, Tunivisions.)



TUNISIA / CFI and Télévision Tunisienne renew their agreements

On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> **Etienne Fiatte** (photo), CEO of *Canal France International* (CFI), was in Tunis to renew partnership agreements with several Tunisian media, including the *Etablissement de la Télévision Tunisienne*.

The main points of CFI's programme for 2013 include training for:

- journalists in ETT's regional bureaux

- journalists with local knowledge for the team in Tunis

- News presenters, supported by a CFI Arabic-speaking expert.

CFI began its partnership with Tunisian Television in 2011. The organization has provided assistance in particular for the coverage of the Constituent Assembly elections by helping on the editorial side and training journalists in political reporting. (*Source : CFI.*)



#### TUNISIA / To beath the crisis Al Hiwar sells – parsley!

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, faced with severe financial problems, the private, Tunis-based channel Al Hiwar, headed by **Tahar Ben Hassine** (photo), decided to collect donations from the public in a somewhat unusual way.

The channel organised a sale of parsley outside its

headquarters. In total, Al Hiwar managed to sell a thousand bouquets of parsley, for total of nearly 110,000 dinars (around €53,000). The price of each bouquet was 20 dinars, but many wanted to pay more than the asking price, while others continued giving money even though the stock of parsley had been exhausted. Among the donors were several well-known personalities like **Hamma Hammami**, General Secretary of the Workers' Party, or the father of the late **Chokri Belaid**.

The channel first made an announcement appealing for donations on February 21<sup>st</sup>. This initiative was criticized and ridiculed on the social networks, especially by supporters of Ennahda, who apparently set up the rumour about selling parsley as a joke, according to Business News. Al Hiwar showed its sense of humour by taking this unusual idea literally. (*Sources : Business News, Tuniscope, Slate.*)



#### ROMANIA / Lay-offs at TVR

In early February TVR made 698 employees redundant: 20% of its workforce. Romanian public television now has only 2,450 employees.

"We have initiated a clear and balanced selection process to determine which jobs should be deleted. Our main goal is to reorganize TVR's activity and reduce costs as

much as possible," the channel's management explained.

Because of the public group's deep financial difficulties, the government arranged a 7-year rescheduling of its debt, currently at  $\epsilon$ 65 million, last September. In August the management decided to close-down TVR Info and TVR Cultural. (Sources : Balkan Insight, Business Review.)



#### SPAIN / RTVE hopes to make savings on personnel costs

On February 20<sup>th</sup> RTVE's Board of Directors (Spain's public radio and television group) presented trade unions with a proposal for a new collective agreement. In a statement, they emphasised that personnel costs are currently 378 million, or 40% of the group's total budget ( $\leq$ 945 million).

The Board proposed streamlining the system of remuneration to reduce these costs by  $\epsilon_{35}$  million. Among the measures, RTVE's management would reduce their own salaries. They would like to replace the present fixed-wage system with something more flexible.

"We want to balance the budget while at the same time ensuring the company does not lose its audience or its influence, and continues to be a reference of public service broadcasting in Spain and the world," the statement stated.

The unions and RTVE must agree the collective proposal by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This year the Spanish public broadcasting group faces a drop of more than 20% of its total budget compared to 2012.

(Sources : El Mundo, El Economista.)



#### SPAIN / Canal 9 begins its redundancy plan

On February 9<sup>th</sup> the Board of *Radiotelevisión Valenciana* (RTVV) began its planned redundancies, affecting 843 employees of Canal 9. To date, 430 employees have already

lost their jobs. Once the redundancy plan is complete, the channel will have only 324 employees.

Canal 9, the regional channel for Valencia, has a huge debt – more than a billion euro in 2012. In July last year workers protested against these cut-backs by commandeering one of the channel's studios.

(Source : El Mundo.)



### PORTUGAL / The government delays the privatisation of one part of RTP

While it was expected that part of the RTP (Portuguese Radio and Television) would be privatized at the beginning of the year, the government finally decided to postpone the deadline. "We're waiting for a more propitious moment to do it,"

explained **Miguel Relvas** Minister of Parliamentary Relations. However, he confirmed that the privatization of one television channel was still being considered, adding the government had "*a budget of*  $\notin$  42 million" to carry out this reform.

According to RFI, in December it was a question of privatizing the main television channel RTP1 and radio (RDP) for a period of 15-25 years. Closing RTP2 was also under consideration.

The possibility of an Angolan buyer has been mentioned, particularly credible since RTP Africa, aimed at Portuguese-speaking countries, has "5 – 6 *times more audience*" than RTP1, according to **Camilo** Azevedo, spokesman for RTP's Workers Committee. (*Sources : AFP, RFI, TV5 Monde.*)



#### FRANCE / RFI joins France 24 at Issy-les-Moulineaux

At the end of January the 700 employees of Radio France International (RFI) moved to premises in Issy-les-Moulineaux, close to those of their colleagues in France 24. Since 1963 RFI and its subsidiary Monte Carlo Doualiya have been at the *Maison de la Radio* in Paris.

The cost of the move has been estimated at  $\epsilon_{36}$  million, two-thirds funded by the state, according to Radioactu. The move was first mooted in March 2012, then delayed and repeatedly postponed following protests from RFI employees.

It is part of the legal merger between France 24, RFI and Monte Carlo Doualiya, endorsed in 2012 by the government of **Nicolas Sarkozy. François Hollande's** government then abandoned the idea of merging the editorial teams, preferring a simple move to coordinate the editorial staff of these three channels in one place, headed by the *Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France* (AEF). This physical closeness is expected to streamline AEF's operating costs and overheads.

(Source : Radioactu.)



BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / A project for a Croatian public channel being studied

On January 11<sup>th</sup> the Bosnian Council of Ministers approved a bill to create Croatian public service broadcasting, which would be attached to Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Having a public service broadcaster would allow the Croats of Bosnia and Herzegovina to cultivate their traditions, language, culture," claimed **Ivo Miro Jovic**, vice-chair of the Democratic Union of Croats in Bosnia, a political party. Although pleased that a step had been taken towards the equality of the country's minorities, he also stressed that the creation of these channels would be "a long process."

There are currently three branches of Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina: BHRT, broadcast throughout the country, RTVFBiH, for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country's first entity, and RTRS, for the Republika Srpska, the second entity.

(Source : SE Times.)



### FRANCE / New editorial units for France 24

**Marc Saïkali**, head of France 24 since October last year, began forming a new team in late January.

Several deputy directors have already been appointed: **Benoit Laporte** (head of the French-language channel), **Mansour Tiss** (head of the Arabic channel), **Robert Parsons** (running the English-language channel), **Sylvain Attal** (in charge of new media) and **Loick Berrou** (in charge of the units making magazines and current affairs films).

Ahmed El Keiy becomes head of news, while **Pascal Mizrahi** was appointed head of the units making magazines and reports.



#### FRANCE / Euronews now available in the UAE

In February the Euronews news channel concluded an agreement with Etisalat, telecommunications leader in the Middle East. The various editions of Euronews are now available by cable and ADSL in the 450,000 households across the UAE which have an Etisalat subscription.

With this agreement, the Lyon-based channel, which broadcasts an Arabic-language edition round the clock, is now available in nearly 18 million homes across the Middle East.

Moreover, Euronews has just installed its commercial services in Paris, on the Champs-Elysées. These offices house the advertising department and the Parisian elements of the editorial staff. A "Euronews Centre" has also been created, with offices for the channel's permanent correspondents and partner channels.

(Sources : communiqué de la chaîne, Stratégies.)

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#### Questions for...

#### **Imene Bahroune**

Chair and Managing Director of the Etablissement de la Télévision Tunisienne

A professional journalist since 1993, Imene Bahroune began her career in print, working mainly for the Tunis Afrique Presse news agency. After that she hosted programmes for the socio-political Hannibal TV. In January 2012, she became head of the state-owned Al Wataniya 2. Appointed chair of the Tunisian Television Establishment in August 2012, she is the only woman at the head of a public broadcasting group in the Arab world. She gave an exclusive interview to the CMCA to discuss her group's situation and the future of the Tunisian media.



# Since the revolution, what has changed for Tunisian public television?

**Imene Bahroune:** There have been many changes – both in substance and in form. Both channels have found their place in a very competitive landscape, since there are now many channels. No longer a propaganda tool for the regime and enjoying more freedom of expression, they are trying to meet the expectations of increasingly demanding viewers, who now find their news credible and objective.

# What values does the group emphasise? Do you think they could be common to both shores of the Mediterranean?

**IB:** Our aim is to serve the public interest with reliable information. The channels try to defend freedom of expression and creation, dearly won, to convey Tunisia's values –that is, a country which is Muslim, Arab, modern and democratic, open to the international environment. A country of tolerance, equality and justice where everyone can live respecting the differences of others. For the most part public television values are the same on both sides of the Mediterranean.

#### Since your appointment, what strategy have you implemented?

**IB:** After initially concentrating on news and political programmes, because of what was happening in the country, viewers wanted a change – despite our limited resources we have diversified the out-put of the main channel Al Wataniya 1 and given a new look to the regional Al Wataniya 2. We've improved the management of staff and finance, initiated a restructuring plan to maximize, mobilize and develop.



#### How is Télévision Tunisienne funded?

**IB:** Each year a budget is allocated by the state, which distributes a licence fee on electricity bills. There is also advertising revenue.

#### Who is on the Board of Directors?

**IB:** The board consists of the CEOs of the national television and radio companies together with representatives of the President, the Government, the Ministries of Culture and Religious Affairs, Finance and the National Office of Telecommunications. A review of its composition, to bring it in line with international standards, is under consideration.

#### What's the aim of the Audiovisual Act being prepared?

**IB:** Decree-Law 116 will create an Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, to regulate the sector, issue radio and television licenses and appoint the heads of public media. The Authority will consist of nine independent persons appointed by decree:

- one member appointed by the President, after consultation with members of the HAICA, to be chair

- two members proposed by the head of the legislature, one of whom at least must have experience in public service broadcasting

- a judge and an advisor to an administrative tribunal proposed by the most representative of the judges' professional organizations

- two members proposed by the most representative of journalists' professional organizations

- two members proposed by the most representative of the non-journalistic broadcasting professional organizations

- one member proposed by the most representative organizations of owners of information and communication companies.

#### Are there plans to include freedom of the press in the Constitution?

**IB:** Yes, it has been agreed that freedom of speech, press and creation without restriction will be included in the Constitution.

# What future is there in Tunisia and the Arab world generally for public television, when satellite TV is so ubiquitous?

**IB:** Public television brings the citizens of every country together around a set of common values, identity, belonging. It can play an important role in the media and social landscape. As for Tunisian state television, despite the very serious crisis it is going through, it will survive, after a bailout and restructuring, provided there is a real willingness on the part of everyone.



Télévision Tunisienne's headquarters in Tunis.

### *France Télévisions* provided technical assistance to Tunisian Television for the 2011 elections, how can relations between the two groups be developed?

**IB:** Through exchange programmes, co-productions, help with the new technologies, help training journalists so they can benefit from the experience of their French colleagues.

# What do you hope for from the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of the heads of Mediterranean television companies in Marseille in June?

**IB:** I hope it will strengthen the exchanges and cooperation between public television companies on both sides of the sea.



Do you know the two Tunisian films selected for the 2013 Primed: Samy Tlili's "Maudit soit le phosphate" (photo) and Abdallah Yahya's "We are here"?

**IB:** Samy Tlili's documentary had a great success because it traced in a subtle, nuanced way the tragic events in the coal-mining region in 2008. Similarly, Abdallah Yahya's documentary hit a nerve because he showed some of the evils that

plague our society: poverty, extremism and violence.

### What does it mean to you, being the only woman in the Arab world to run a public television company?

**IB:** It is both an honour and a great responsibility. But as you know, Tunisian women have always been pioneers and are considered a reference in the Arab-Muslim world as far as rights and constantly strengthened entitlements are concerned. I hope I succeed in my task to prove that women are worthy of positions of responsibility, and thus convince politicians they can rely on women's talents for positions of leadership and responsibility.

#### Interview by Jean-François Tealdi, journalist.

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#### **PROGRAMMES**

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TUNISIA / Nessma TV wants "a different schedule for each country"

While for a time the idea was that Nessma would be a single, unified channel broadcasting across the whole of North Africa, its managing director, **Nabil Karoui**, is now committed to having "*a different schedule for each country*."

According to him, the consequences of the Arab Spring

have meant "the way television is made has changed. As the Tunisian elections approach I'm going to have to focus on politics, and that risks losing the Algerians."

In practice the first changes should occur shortly before Ramadan. Different versions of Nessma TV will be broadcast in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, with each having 30% of specific programmes. The choice of prime-time programmes and their scheduling will be adjusted for each country.

Nessma is also still in negotiations to launch a channel on French screens this year. (Source : Jeune Afrique.)



#### MOROCCO / Season 2 of "Kabul Kitchen" in preproduction

The second season of the French series "Kabul Kitchen", inspired by a true story, will be shot in Morocco starting April 8<sup>th</sup>. The further adventures of Jacky, owner of a restaurant in Kabul, is again produced by Chic Film and Scarlett Production for Canal Plus, starring **Gilbert Melki** and **Simon Abkarian**.

The first season, broadcast in 2012 on the encrypted channel and watched by an average of 900,000 viewers, won several awards, including for Best Series and Best Screenplay at the Biarritz International Festival of Audiovisual Programmes.

The second season is scheduled for broadcast in late 2013. (Source : Spin Off.)



MOROCCO/Medi 1 TV adapts X Factor for North Africa and launches a weekly talk show

Since February 21<sup>st</sup> the private channel MEDI 1 TV has been broadcasting an adaptation of the music talent show "*XFactor*."

5,000 candidates were interviewed across the whole of North Africa and the Middle East for MEDI 1 TV's adaptation, which is aimed at viewers in the

Arab world. There are 4 separate competitions: soloist singers, male and female; groups; and artists over 25 years. An international jury, including Lebanese artist **Elissa Khoury**, **Carole Samaha, Wael Kfoury**, and UAE singer **Hussein Al Jassmi**, will select the winners. MEDI 1 TV is banking on high ratings, like those of "*Arab Idol*", broadcast between December 2011 and March 2012 on the emirate channel MBC 1.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> the channel also launched a new weekly must-see – the talk show "JariJariYa". Presented by **Kaouter Bouderraja**, this programme wants to contribute to "a better understanding of the traditions, customs and culture of our North African neighbours, [...] and the specific identity of North African countries," said **Abbas Azzouzi**, CEO of Medi1TV. To do this commentators from each country are present in the studio: the Algerian **Salima Abada**, the Tunisian radio presenter **Imen Amiri**, Libyan **Miloud El Amrouni**, the Mauritanian **Saw Mamadou**, Moroccans **Youssef Ksiyer** and **Hamza Filali**. "Jari Ya Jari" is broadcast every Friday at 8:50 pm.

(Sources : Achnoo, Le Matin.)

Badr'Eddine Mili



# ALGERIA / A film commemorating the resistance in Constantine

**Hocine Nacef**, a director working for the regional EPTV station in Constantine is currently filming a TV film, "*Le dernier hiver*", adapted from **Badr'Eddine Mili**'s novel "*La brèche et le rampart*".

Scheduled to last 4½ hours, this long film in black and white looks at the final years of colonization, from 1945 to 1962, through the eyes of a family living in one of Constantine's landmark districts of resistance and urban warfare, Aouinet El Foul. In essence it is about a politically active teenager who joins the armed resistance. **Mohamed-Tahar Zaoui** and **Mouni Boualem** (*"Harraga Blues"*) are cast in this film for

television that requires 150 extras.

The film is scheduled to be shown on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and will bring to a close the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of Algerian independence. (*Source: APS*).



FRANCE / A monthly programme behind the scenes at Marseille-Provence 2013

At 3:30 pm every third Saturday of the month the regional channel France 3 Provence-Alpes will be offering a programme about what's on at Marseille-Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture.

"Coulisses Indiscrètes", presented by actress **Aurélie Vaneck** (photo, with Patrick **Labarrière**, Director of France Télévisions Southeast and **Bruno Le Dref**, regional delegate of France 3 Provence-Alpes), reveals the secrets behind the creation and staging of various events organized by the cultural players of Marseille and Provence this year.

Each 52-minute slot will show two documentaries produced in collaboration with Mars Productions, Comic Strip Productions and AMDA Productions. All the documentaries will also projected continuously throughout the year in the Pavilion M, the temporary structure in the Old Port built for Marseille-Provence 2013. (Source: *La Provence*.)



#### FRANCE / "Mediterraneo" in March

- **The Mafia and Corruption in Montenegro:** on April 7<sup>th</sup> the Montenegrins elect their new president, a symbolic election which will probably not change the political situation. The country's current challenge is rather to meet the demands of Brussels in the fight against organized crime and corruption.

- **Shipbuilding in Croatia**: a vital economic sector for Croatia, shipbuilding employs nearly 40,000 people. It has a long tradition in this country, which on July 1<sup>st</sup> will join the European Union. But the accession process has forced forced the government to take a different tack with shipbuilding: it has promised to stop all subsidies to the sector, even privatize it to stick to the rules of free competition.

- **Plastic pollution**: an invisible pollution extending though all the seas of the world. Micro-plastics: these small particles are swallowed by fish and then end up on our plates. How serious is the damage, and what are the consequences for the food chain? To answer these questions researchers studied marine life in the sea off France and Italy. - An international marine park: preserving the Mediterranean and its paradisiacal landscapes is the purpose behind a new international marine park, born of cooperation between Corsica and Sardinia. The natural reserves of Bonifacio and Maddalena are merging to allow a better management of tourists but also to compare scientific data between them.

- **The solar power stations at Massa Martana**: Italy is not to be left out of ecology. In the province of Perugia the town of Massa Martana is well-known for its architectural treasures, but it is also preparing its future by building solar thermodynamic power stations. A source of economic development for the region.

- **The Alcazar of Seville** (photo): for more than seven centuries it was a royal residence: built by the Umayyads from 844, the Alcazar of Seville was altered several times during the Muslim period. Since 1987 this fortified palace has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visited by over a million tourists every year. Today it serves as the back-drop for many weddings.

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#### **ECONOMY**



#### SPAIN / Telefónica negotiates to buy Digital Plus

Telefónica, the Spanish telecommunications giant, is currently in negotiations with the Prisa TV group to buy its Satellite bouquet, Digital Plus.

In 2011 Prisa obtained a further extension from the banks to

repay its huge debt of more than  $\epsilon_3$  billion, but under certain conditions. According to *El Confidencial*, the group has very recently received a warning from the banks about the difficulties it may encounter fulfilling those 2011 conditions. As a result of this warning Prisa began discussions with Telefónica.

Telefónica is already a shareholder in Digital Plus: Prisa sold 44% of its shares in Digital Plus in 2009, selling half to Telefónica and half to Telecinco.

If the transaction goes as planned, Telefónica will become Spain's market leader in pay television.

(Sources: El Confidencial, Vertele.)



#### ITALY / Cairo Communication buys La7

On March 4<sup>th</sup> the Board of Directors of Telecom Italia Media reached a final agreement on the sale of the private channel La7 to the Cairo Communication group.

Cairo and a private equity fund, Clessidra, were the only two candidates hoping to buy one of the largest general interest channels in the country, after RAI and Mediaset.

For this transaction, Cairo will pay a symbolic sum of one million euros.

La7, impacted by the shrinking advertising market and an increasingly expensive programme schedule, recorded losses of more than  $\epsilon$ 66 million at the end of the fiscal year 2012.

(Source: La Repubblica, Zonebourse.)

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Close Up on...

### Hrvatska Radiotelevizija (HRT)



Each month, the CMCA Newsletter presents a portrait of one of the CMCA's member channels. Presentation, organization, iconic programmes... This month, the spotlight is turned on the Croatian public broadcasting group, HRT.

Croatian Radiotelevision is a public radio and television company. It is one of the European public broadcasting organisations created to serve the society, establish a public good and contribute to the development of a democratic society.

#### History

HRT began back in May 1926 with the founding of Croatian Radio. Broadcasting had been started by members of the Zagreb Radio Club. They obtained a concession and authorization from the State, and founded the Zagreb Radio station. "**Hello, hello! This is Radio Zagreb**" these were the first words broadcast at 8:30 pm May 15<sup>th</sup> on medium wave.

Three decades later, the first television station began broadcasting in what was then Yugoslavia, but also across South-East Europe. Croatian Television (formerly called Television Zagreb) began broadcasting on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1956.

In June 1990 the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia passed a law changing the name from Radio and Television Zagreb to **Croatian Radio-Television**.

HRT is a **public radio and television station** mainly funded by taxes and advertising revenue. Its four channels are broadcast to more than **one million homes**.

It has **3,500 employees, 21 radio channels, a television centre in Croatia** and **several abroad. 70 studios and departments** are involved in the production of programmes. **18,000 hours of national programmes** are produced each year, and about **7,000 hours of foreign programmes** are broadcast.

HRT's headquarters is located in **Zagreb** and consists of four divisions: Radio Croat, Croatian Television, Music Production and Multimedia.



One of the Croatian Radio studios.

#### **Croatian radio**

Croatian radio includes **three national radio stations and eight regional ones**. Radio **Glas Hrvatske** ("The Voice of Croatia") broadcasts internationally. HRT also has **three channels on the Internet**. By keeping the values for which it is known – tradition, speed, its informative nature, professionalism and objectivity –

while at the same time modernizing its programmes, Radio Croat makes it easy for the public to access its contents.

- HR1: educational content, drama, culture, scientific and musical programmes, ephemeral programmes, specialized programmes, news bulletins every hour, and major news programmes.

- HR2: ephemeral programmes with a lighter approach, developing public content focusing on sports and entertainment, news bulletins every hour and a half and traffic updates.

- HR3: cultural content, science and drama, classical and alternative music, an academic approach to the treatment of subjects.

#### Specific Internet programmes

While Croatian Radio lets you listen on-line to all radio programmes (<u>www.hrt.hr/uzivo</u>) it also broadcasts a **specialized web-radio**: *Govorni Program* ("Spoken Programme"), with four repeats daily of six hours of programming from HR 1 and HR 2.



«Last Choir Standing», a choral competition in the HRT studio.

#### **Croatian Television**

The Television station has **4 digital terrestrial channels** and **one satellite channel** broadcast in Croatian.

- **HRT1**: This is the main channel, aimed at all social categories, catering for all their needs: news, discovery and entertainment.

The programmes are broadcast 24 hours a day: news bulletins, documentaries, ephemera and studio discussions, first run drama series, films, quiz and variety shows.

The News broadcast at 7.30 pm has the biggest audience, not only in Croatia but also across the region.

- **HRT 2:** This channel is more "relaxed". It is aimed at a younger audience, the under 50's.

This channel has sport, music, foreign programmes and films, as well as educational programmes for children and the younger

generation.

- **HRT 3:** The third channel is devoted to culture and art, classic films, quality productions, European and international films.

- **HRT 4**: This is the most recent news channel, broadcasting the latest news with regional stories, current affairs and travel.



The team of the news channel HRT 4.

#### **HRT Music Production**



HRT's Big Band.

- In addition to the classical and contemporary repertoire and recordings for Croatian Radiotelevision and record publishers, **the HRT Symphony Orchestra** is also performs works from the country's musical heritage and contemporary Croatian creations.

- **The HRT Jazz Orchestra** has existed for over 60 years, a longevity rare in the history of world-class big bands.

- **The HRT Small Drum Orchestra** plays traditional Croatian music. During the last two decades the orientation of the orchestra's repertoire has grown, opening to works of art music as well as popular variety.

- Croatia has a national tradition of madrigals: the **HRT Choir** was founded in the 1940's. Beginning as a chamber ensemble, it has grown over time into the country's principal professional choir.

Since January 1993, HRT has been an active member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). HRT is the broadcasting group from Central and Eastern Europe with the largest number of representatives on the EBU, many of them in important positions.

In November 2010, at HRT's initiative, an association was founded in Novi Vinodolski: the **European Association of public broadcasting services in South-East Europe**. (<u>http://psmsee.hrt.hr</u>). A professional, non-profit organisation with headquarters in Zagreb, it is committed to regional cooperation and defends the idea that public services must be leaders in the promotion of the knowledge society, economic growth, protection of cultural heritage, of European values and integration with the EU.

In addition, HRT is proud of the success of its programmes, which have received **numerous international awards**. Over the years, Radio Croat drama has won **30 renowned awards** including the PRIX ITALIA, the PRIX FUTURA, the JAPAN PRIZE, the PREMIO ONDAS, the CIRCOM PRIZE, and the MARULIC PRIZE.



#### Organization

The managing director of HRT is **Goran RADMAN** (*photo*). Born in 1957, he graduated from Zagreb's University of Political Science. He assumed the job of running HRT after running the University of Applied Science VERN. Previously he had worked many years as head of Microsoft Adriatic.

HRT is an **associate member of the CMCA**. It is represented by **Tatjana SIMIC**, **Co-ordinator of international projects and festivals** at the heart of the Croat group.

Contact : HRT, Prisavlje 3, 10000 ZAGREB Phone: +385 1 634 30 10 / Web-site: <u>www.hrt.hr</u>

#### **<u>CINEMA</u>**

ALGERIA	Ahmed Rachedi's new film will be screened this spring
ITALY	<u>An extra 100,000€ grant money for films made in Apulia</u>
MOROCCO	Moroccan films monopolize the national box office in 2012
FRANCE	A documentary reveals the Maison de la Radio



ALGERIA / Ahmed Rachedi's new film will be screened this spring

Algerian director Ahmed Rachedi (photo) has just finished filming "Krim Belkacem" about one of the key figures of the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) in the Algerian War of Independence (1954-62). Production began in 2009, but they were only able to start filming in September 2012.

After a few days in Algiers, most of the filming was done in Kabylia, Tunisia, Egypt and Switzerland. According to its director, "Krim Belkacem" should be screened "in May or June at the latest."

Ahmed Rachedi, who made "Opium and the stick" in 1969, is one of the most prolific filmmakers about Algerian independence. In 2009, he made a three-hour portrait of **Mostefa Benboulaïd**. In April he hopes to start a new film about **Colonel Lotfi**, alias **Benali Deghine Boudghane**. And then he would like to make a film tribute to **Djamila Bouhired**, whom he describes as "one of the women revolutionaries who played an important role during the war of national liberation."

(Source: APS).



#### ITALY / An extra 100.000€ grant money for films made in Apulia

The Apulia Film Commission (South-eastern Italy), FC Apulia, has voted to increase its hospitality funds in

2013 from €300,000 to € 400,000.

This fund is for all production companies, Italian or foreign, wishing to make feature films, television films, TV series or web-series in the region. It is compatible with grants from the National Apulia Film Fund (for Italian producers) and the Apulia International Film Fund (for foreign producers).

Applications for this hospitality fund must be submitted before May 31<sup>st</sup>. The next deadline will be September 30<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Click here</u> for all the documents necessary for a grant application.



<u>MOROCCO / Moroccan films monopolize the national box</u> <u>office 2012</u>

The Centre Cinématographique Marocain (CCM) has just published the box office figures for 2012. Moroccan productions hit historic highs, with 33% of the market

across the year, or 690,000 tickets sold.

Two Moroccan comedies made the best scores of the year: "Road to Kaboul" (photo) by **Brahim Chkiri** (231,000 entries), and **Said Naciri's** "Un Marocain à Paris" (91,000 entries). Among the other national successes were "Elle est diabétique, hypertendue et elle refuse de crever 3", by **Imad** and **Swel Noury** (42,000 entries), and "Zéro" by **Nour-Eddine Lakhmari** (40,000 entrées).

But the report is much less rosy for cinema attendance as a whole. Scarcely 2 million tickets were sold in 2012, representing a 10% drop from 2011. Total takings have risen slightly to 69.2 million dirhams (+1.6%).

There are now only 36 cinemas in the whole country. Among them the Megarama Multiplex in Casablanca which alone took 36 million dirhams, more than half the total from all Moroccan cinemas in 2012.

The whole of the CCM's assessment can be consulted <u>by clicking here</u>.



#### FRANCE / A documentary reveals the Maison de la Radio

Director **Nicolas Philibert** ("*Le pays des sourds*", "*Etre et avoir*") spent 6 months of 2011 filming everyday life in the *Maison de la Radio*, an immense building in Paris which is the headquarters of *Radio France*. The documentary he made there, "*La Maison de la Radio*", will be released in

French cinemas on April 3rd.

The film shows, in a way never attempted before, the work of the presenters, writers, journalists, technicians...

"Radio is a media without images, and in some way that's what made me want to do the film," says the director. "What relevance is there in making a film about the home of the spoken word if it's just to illustrate, to show people's faces? That has no value as such. So from there, it becomes a cinematic challenge."

"La Maison de la Radio" is produced by Les Films d'Ici, Longride and Arte France; it will be distributed by Les Films du Losange.

(Source: TV Culturebox France.)

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#### **FESTIVALS**

### Festival of the month One World Romania,

International Festival of Documentary Film about Human Rights From March 11th to 17th 2013 in Bucarest



A festival of positive vibes... This is what the organisers of this international documentary festival are offering, claiming it is "an antidote to hatred and anger."

Indeed the festival's main section is called "Hate is bad for your health". It takes audiences to Israel (Silvina Landsmann's "Soldier/Citizen"), to Greece ("The Cleaners" by Konstaninos Georgousis), to Indonesia and Uganda with a selection of films about Human Rights, and a look at the tensions and conflicts between communities.

In the "Dis/Abilities" category, six films are on offer, with people coping with a handicap as the common

denominator. Among them a young Spaniard in a wheel-chair who decides to go round the world (**Marcel Barrena's** "Little World"), or a group of Finnish punk-rockers who all suffer from Down's syndrome ("The Punk Syndrome" by **Jukka Kärkkäinen**).

"Propaganda Lectures" is about manipulation by the media and political propaganda. The selection of this category includes works like the French "Les nouveaux chiens de garde" by **Yannick Kergoat** and **Gilles Balbastre** or **Caveh Zahedi's** UAE film "The Sheik and I".

The section "Before the Law" will screen four films as so many "broadcasting trials". The Israeli film "*The Law in these Parts*" by **Ra'anan Alexandrowicz** denounces the legal argument used by Tsahal in the Palestinian Territories for the last 40 years.

Rebels are honoured in the category "Everyday rebellions", with 7 films including **Alison Klayman's** portrait of the Chinese dissident artist **Ai Weiwei**.

The sixth and final section, "Youth : Handle with Care" is for films about youth, with in particular 3 films taking a look at Romanian adolescents: **Raluca Racean Gorgos'** "The Bed is Broken", "After the Silence" by **Vanina Vignal**, and **Serban Oliver Tataru's** "Anatomy of a Departure".

Among the events running parallel to the festival, it is worth noting that film-maker **Claude Lanzmann** will be there screening the full version of his long documentary "Shoah" (1985) for the first time in Romania.

For more information about the programme, <u>click here</u>.

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#### THE OTHER FESTIVALS

FRANCE	Call for programmes for the URTI Grand Prix of Creative Documentary
LIBYA	<u>A shared Libyan-Egyptian award in Benghazi</u>
TUNISIA	Final chance to register for the 1st Med Memories festival
ROMANIA	Call for films for the 13th Astra Film Festival
SLOVENIA	Call for films for the Ljubljana Festival of Migrant Film
ITALY	Call for films for the 12th Euganea Film Festival
GERMANY	The Romanian film "Child's Pose" wins the Golden Bear at Berlin
FRANCE	8th Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern Cinema
FRANCE	35 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cinema of the Real, 3 female Arab film-makers invited

FRANCE / Call for programmes for the URTI Creative Documentary Grand Prix

RTI URTI (Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale) has launched its call for nominations for the 32nd International Grand Prix for Creative Documentaries, an award for the best television productions in this field.

In 2012, 255 documentaries from 85 countries and 182 TV stations were received.

This year four awards will be presented, including the Grand Prix for \$5,000 (€3,700). Only documentaries produced after June 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 are allowed to compete, but there is no restriction on time or subject. Each channel or organization may submit a maximum of two creative documentaries.

The final jury will meet on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Monaco, and the results will be announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> at a gala ceremony during the Monte-Carlo Television Festival Click here to access the rules and registration form.



#### LIBYA / A shared Libyan-Egyptian award at Benghazi

The Libyan film "The Thousand Mile Road" by Murad Gargoum (photo) and Neveen Shalaby's Egyptian film "Me and the Agenda" shared the Best Documentary award at the Independent Arab Film Festival in Benghazi.

From February 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Libya's second city hosted the third edition of this festival. Most of the 60 films screened packed out the cinema, according to the Libya Herald. The greater part

of the selection, made up of both professional and amateur documentaries, were images filmed during the Arab Spring revolutions.

"This is a remarkable achievement which coincided with the commemoration of the revolution. The local council will support the next edition with a much larger budget," promised Osama Sherif, spokesman for Benghazi's council. (Source: Herald Libya.)



TUNISIA / Final days to register for the 1st Med Memories Festival

Organized for the first time in Tunis by the Association for Audiovisual Documentation of Tunisian Heritage, the festival Med Memories is for films contributing to the preservation of

the local, regional and universal memory in the Mediterranean. There are three competitions: one for amateurs, one for professional feature films and the third for professional short films. The festival will be held from April 23 to 27, but **applications are still open until March 20**<sup>th</sup>. All Mediterranean films, drama and documentary, produced in 2011 and about the heritage of the area are invited to participate.

To participate you must send a request by e-mail to: <u>contact@adapt.com.tn</u>. The DVD of your film should be sent to:

Association de la Documentation Audiovisuelle du Patrimoine Tunisien,

Centre Culturel Hassan Zmerli,

1008 Bab Jdid, Tunis, TUNISIA.



#### ROMANIA / Call for films for the 13<sup>th</sup> Astra Film Festival

From October 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Sibiu is hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Astra Film Festival, an international Documentary Festival. The official competition is divided into five categories: International; Central and Eastern European; Romanian; student; and environmental. In total, the awards are worth  $\epsilon_{25,000}$ .

The call for this year's films is already open and all documentaries are eligible, regardless of their subject-matter

or length.

The deadline for applications is April 15<sup>th</sup> . <u>Click here</u> to consult the rules and fill-in the application form.



<u>SLOVENIA / Call for films for the Ljubljana</u> <u>Festival of Migrant Film</u>

Since 2010, the humanitarian organisation *Slovene Philanthropy* and the NGO

*Zavod Voluntariat* have celebrated World Refugee Day (June 20<sup>th</sup>) by organizing a festival dedicated to films about migration. The 2013 edition will be held from June 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> in Ljubljana.

Applications are now open for the film-makers who want to participate. All films on migration, asylum, refugees, integration or multiculturalism are eligible.

The deadline for applications is March 31st. <u>Click here</u> to consult the rules and download the application form.



#### ITALY / Call for films for the 12th Euganea Film Festival

The Euganea Film Festival, near Padua, offers an annual international competition for short films and documentaries. Three prizes are awarded: Best short film (maximum 30 minutes), Best Documentary (maximum 90 minutes) and Best Short Animation (maximum 30 minutes).

The call for applications is open for films produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

The deadline for applying is March 23rd. <u>Click here</u> to consult the rules and download the application form.



#### GERMANY / The Romanian film "Child's Pose" wins the Golden Bear at Berlin

On February 17<sup>th</sup> the Romanian director **Calin Peter Netzer** won the Golden Bear for his film "Child's Pose" (photo) at the 63rd Berlin International Film Festival. The film is about a well-off mother trying every trick in the book to protect her son who has killed a boy in a car accident and faces a prison

sentence. Although it is only his third film, Calin Peter Netzer takes Romanian cinema right to the top of a major festival, six years after **Cristian Mungiu** won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for "4 months, 3 weeks two days". He is the first Romanian film director to win the Golden Bear.

The official competition jury, chaired by Taiwanese **Wong Kar-Wai**, awarded the Grand Prix to the Bosnian film "An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker" by **Danis Tanovic** ("No *Man's Land*", "*Hell*"). In this docu-drama inspired by a true story, a Roma couple face an unprecedented crisis when the woman has to keep a dead foetus in her stomach for several days since she cannot afford an operation. **Nazif Mujic**, in the role of the husband, received the Silver Bear for Best Actor.

In the other categories the French Jean-Bernard Marlin particularly distinguished himself by receiving the Golden Bear for Short Film "*La Fugue*", about a teacher in Marseilles (played by Adel Bencherif) working with juvenile offenders, one of whom he has to accompany to court.



FRANCE / 8th Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern cinema

From April 4<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> the *Ecran* cinema in Saint-Denis, together with 7 partner cinemas across Paris and Seine-Saint-Denis, are hosting the 8th Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern Cinema.

As every year, the event will screen about thirty feature films from the Arab world, including several unreleased or on pre-

release. All the directors have been invited to meet the public. Several discussions with film professionals, literary meetings and concerts complete the programme for this 2013 Panorama.

#### <u>Click here</u> for more information.



#### <u>FRANCE / The Cinéma du Réel celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary,</u> <u>ADDOC invites 3 Arab film-makers</u>

The 35<sup>th</sup> Festival Cinema du Réel (Cinema of the Real) will take place in Paris from March 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Under the direction of a new programmer, **Maria Bonsanti**, the festival is a challenging exploration of the documentary genre. There are four competitions: International, French, early films, and short films. Alongside the festival there will be a major discussion on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Organised by the Association des Cinéastes Documentaristes (ADDOC), the theme will be: "Women film-makers in the Arab revolutions". Three Mediterranean documentary filmmakers, all

women, will take part: the Tunisian **Fatma Chérif** ("Sweet Home", 2009), the Syrian **Hala Mohammad** ("Voyage dans la mémoire" 2006), and the Lebanese **Jihane Chouaib** ("Pays rêvé" 2012).

Using clips, they will talk to the public about their experiences and how they make documentary films.

The discussion will be moderated by the directors **Michele Massé** and **Charlotte Szlovak**, Addoc members. It will be held from 11:15 at the Centre Pompidou in the Small Hall (level -1). Admission is free.

<u>Click here</u> for more information.

Find the list of all the festivals in March on our web-site: http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/festivals-et-marches/

#### WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

#### Cinemoz

(www.cinemoz.com)



Launched during Ramadan 2012, Cinemoz is a platform for video on demand (VOD). Its originality is to offer free of charge a wide range of films produced in the Arab world. Its income comes from advertising, with promotional messages appearing discreetly while each video is being viewed.

In terms of visitors it is already the second most popular VOD platform in the Arab world (after shahid.net, the catch-up TV of the Saudi group MBC), with the largest library of feature films in the Arab world.

Created by Franco-Lebanese **Karim Safieddine**, Cinemoz is a huge success, crowned at the Europas Tech Awards in January by being nominated in the category Best Start-up of the MENA Region (Middle East and North Africa).

Among the films on offer, works by **Youssef Chahine**, **Nabil Ayouch** and **Danielle Arbid** rub shoulders with television series like "*Freej*", a 3D animation programme.

Cinemoz is even beginning to develop its own production and distribution activities, with the April on-line launch of "Almoz Famous: Making of Cinemoz, the Hulu of the Arab World". This documentary, funded through a crowd-funding campaign (funded by the web-users), looks back at the site's inception and how it became so successful.

#### ON THE WEB



#### AUSTRALIA / "I Luv U But", or the impossible daily life of two Lebanese gays

Conceived and created by **Fadia Abboud**, "I Luv U But" is a nine episode web series featuring two Australian gays of Lebanese origin, one a man, the other a woman, who had to marry one another to avoid their families' wrath. Although their friends are all aware of their sexual orientation, they have

to lie to their parents and relatives.

Available <u>at this address</u>, all the episodes were filmed in 4 days on a very modest budget (\$8,000, or about \$6,000).

As well as the basic premise, the (woman) director very accurately portrays a typical Lebanese family, its culture and traditions, while sexual relations between two people of the same sex are still currently banned under Lebanese law.

"It often happens in the Lebanese community that a gay boy marries a gay girl for convenience and to make their parents happy," says the actor **George El Hindi**, who plays the gay husband.

A second season is already in the pipeline, and the director is even considering a television broadcast.

(Source : Euromed Audiovisuel.)



<u>SPAIN / The sacked employees of</u> <u>Telemadrid launch a web-TV</u>

Many of the 826 employees laid off in January by Telemadrid have united to launch a local web-TV, TmEx.es.

Launched on February 21<sup>st</sup> and subverting the logo of the public regional channel, TmEx is defined by its creators as "the spokesman for the collectives and the citizens of the Madrid community, who for several years have no longer played a leading role in Madrid's public channel."

The programming is mainly news stories and reports, put together on a shoestring.

"We want to make this the site watched by the citizen who wants to know what is really happening in Madrid," we read on TmEx.es.

Every Thursday since January those still employed at Telemadrid join their out-of-work colleagues to protest outside the headquarters of the regional government, on the *Puerta del Sol*.

(Source : VerTele.)

#### IN THE REST OF THE NEWS

TUNISIANomadis is looking for projects for Tunisian documentariesLIBYAAppointment of a new Media MinisterUAEAflamnah brings crowd-funding to universitiesLEBANONCall for candidates for help with writing



<u>TUNISIA / Nomadis is looking for projects for Tunisian</u> <u>documentaries</u>

The Tunisian production company Nomadis Images, based in La Marsa, has launched a call for documentary projects. It is looking for original projects by independent film-makers from Tunisia,

Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt.

Each film must be expected to run 30 to 40 minutes and must be made in one of the above countries.

Applications are open until March 15<sup>th</sup>. To submit a film project, just send a synopsis, treatment, statement of intent, and the film-maker's biography / filmography to nomadis.images@planet.tn.

Nomadis recently produced the following two documentaries : **Hinde Boujemaa's** "C'était mieux demain" and **Sami Tlili's** "Maudit soit le phosphate".



#### LIBYA / Appointment of a new Media Minister

On February 10<sup>th</sup> **Yousef Mohamed Sharif** was appointed Libyan Minister of Media. This is the first time since the revolution of 2011 that a ministry of this sort has been created in the country.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> the National General Congress agreed on the need to create a Ministry of

Information in order to regulate the media.

Nearly two months later, it is now a Media Ministry that has been created. Questioned by the Libyan agency LANA, **Mr. Sharif** sought to reassure the press about the authority of his ministry: "We will not give up freedom of speech, opinion and expression. Compromising freedoms would be like sacrificing the nation." He also promised that no authoritarian control would be inflicted on the country's media, and that his ministry "will encourage freedom of the press" and not be "a tool of repression."

(Source: Libya Herald)



<u>UAE / Aflamnah brings crowd-funding to</u> <u>universities</u>

The crowd-funding web-site Aflamnah has partnered with the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Communication (MBRSC), attached to the American University of Dubai.

Since February, 12 students have opened a page on the site to raise funding for their film projects. They each have 60 days to reach the minimum budget, ranging from \$400 to \$600 depending on the project.

"It is extremely important for the new generation of writers, especially students of MBRSC, to be able to involve the public in the early stages of pre-production," explained **Fadi Haddad**, director, writer and teacher.

Launched on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, Aflamnah is the first crowd-funding platform specifically for artistic projects in the Arab world. Crowd-funding is a way for the people behind the project to find funding from the general public. Each donor receives one or more benefits in exchange for, and in proportion to, his contribution (DVD, screen credit).

All the student projects are accessible by clicking here.



#### LEBANON / Call for candidates for help with writing

The Institut Français in the Lebanon and the FFA Private Bank are launching a mentoring programme for scriptwriting, aimed at Lebanese film-makers who have a project for a feature film or documentary.

From May to June 2013, the candidates will develop their script, helped by a number of experienced film

professionals. Halfway through, a French panel of experts will meet the directors and evaluate their work. The most advanced projects will be helped to find finance.

**Applications are open until March 22.** Participants must be able to speak French or English. **A scenario, a synopsis, a CV and a covering letter should be sent to:** <u>cinema.beyrouth@if-liban.com</u>. If the director has worked on other projects, a DVD of them may be sent to this address:

Lisa Giacchero, Service audiovisuel / Projet LUX, Institut Français du Liban, Espace des Lettres – rue de Damas, BEYROUTH.

<u>Click here</u> for more information.

#### Translated from the French by Tim King